

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES SERVICES**



**3. EVIDENCE BASED ASSESSMENTS**

**MECHANICS**

**Practice Expectations**

* Assessments will be clear and balanced and informed by evidence.
* Assessments will be informed by relevant research wherever possible.
* Assessments will include meaningful recording (in their own words) and analysis of children and young people’s views, observations of behaviour/relationship with carers.
* Assessments will be systemic and include the views of all relevant family members, including absent parents. Where this is not possible, the reason and impact of this will be noted.
* Assessments will include an analysis of the family history/chronology.
* Assessments will demonstrate an understanding and analysis of the impact of cultural/diversity issues.
* All key professionals for the child and family should be enabled to contribute to the assessment, including the child and family themselves. Do **with**, not to or for.
* The assessment will always be shared with the child and family, and their views, including any dissent, noted.
* The assessment will be shared with key professionals in line with information sharing arrangements.
* Remember quality…even when no one is looking/scrutinising. We all own quality.
* Be brave enough to have the difficult conversations and ask the tough questions to inform your assessment. Be curious.

**PURPOSE**

* Assessments will be dynamic and regularly updated, in line with reviews and whenever there is a significant event or change in the child’s plan.
* Assessments will be informed by associated tools- eg Child Sex Exploitation Screening Tool, Domestic Abuse matrix, Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST) and the Resilience/Vulnerability matrix.
* Assessment will include analysis of capacity to change and any impact of not changing on the child/young person.
* Assessments will be completed in partnership with all key agencies involved and with the child and family.
* Assessments will be written using language that families will understand, avoiding jargon and acronyms.
* Assessments will only be authorised by managers when they meet the agreed standards, ensuring that all gaps are rectified.
* Assessments will be shared appropriately with families and partner agencies.

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